

S-E-C-R-E-T

21 November 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR: Bureau Chiefs

FROM: Acting Chief, FBIS

SUBJECT: Letter of Information

GENERAL

1. Vietnamese Coup: FBIS was able to provide full and rapid information on the military coup in South Vietnam from round-the-clock coverage of the Saigon radio by the Saigon and Okinawa Bureaus. The Saigon Bureau's first indication of the coup cleared the FBIS Wire forty-six minutes after filing and beat the press agencies by an hour and seventeen minutes. On the first day of the coup, Saigon filed two ZZ and thirty-three OO messages and Okinawa filed seventeen OO's, pushing Wire Service volume to its highest level since February. Saigon Bureau personnel were able to continue to work throughout the fighting. The Okinawa Bureau, however, assumed regular coverage of Saigon radio for eleven hours daily to cover the night curfew period in Saigon. Saigon's reports, including those on the surrender of the presidential palace and the resignations of Diem and Nhu which the White House released to the press only a few minutes after they were carried on the FBIS Wire, frequently preceded news agency dispatches by an hour. Ambassador Lodge suggested shortly after the beginning of the coup, in a message passed immediately to the White House by the State Department, that Washington rely on FBIS as the prime source of announcements broadcast by the coup-controlled Saigon radio. Throughout the period all monitored reports of reaction to the coup were wirefiled to the Senior Intelligence Duty Officer for the DCI. [redacted]

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2. Iraqi Crisis: The Mediterranean Bureau's report that the Baghdad radio had gone off the air, in connection with the abortive 13 November coup by Iraq's ruling Bath Party, cleared the FBIS Wire seven minutes ahead of the Associated Press report and forty-two minutes ahead of Reuters. [redacted]

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3. Dahomey Government Shakeup: The African Bureau was able to respond promptly to the 27 October Dahomey Government shakeup despite the fact it

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Group 1
Excluded from automatic
downgrading and
declassification

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came on Sunday, a normal off-duty day, and entailed gathering staff members and opening special communications. The bureau's first 00 message on the situation, Colonel Soglo's announcement of the dissolution of the Maga Government, was filed approximately one hour after the duty monitor's first telephoned alert. The BBC was much impressed with the speed with which the bureau was able to swing into action. [redacted] 50X1

4. Daily Report Supplements: Two long editorials from the CPSU theoretical journal Kommunist defining the CPSU line in its dispute with the Chinese Communist Party, which would normally be the responsibility of FDD, were published as Daily Report supplements to assure rapid and wide-spread distribution to the intelligence community. A People's Daily-Red Flag article, attacking CPSU leaders as "Apologists of Neocolonialism," and a speech by a Soviet trade union leader at a Moscow congress were also published as supplements. [redacted] 50X1

5. Counterinsurgency Reporting: A memorandum was prepared for the Chief of the Research Staff, DD/I, outlining FBIS' extensive reporting on insurgency and counterinsurgency, with samples of such reporting in the Daily Reports and RPB publications. FBIS also coordinated with other 00 divisions for displaying 00's counterinsurgency capabilities at exhibitions at which the Agency at large is represented. [redacted] 50X1

6. Khrushchev Press Conference: The National Aeronautics and Space Council was provided 10 copies of Khrushchev's 25 October press conference for distribution to the Senate and House space committees. The Space Council later requested and received permission to release copies of the press conference to newsmen. [redacted] 50X1

7. Special Service on Cuba: Excerpts of Havana broadcasts and telecasts indicative of Cuban popular resistance or discontent were collated by RPB at the request of the DDI's Special Activities Staff. [redacted] 50X1

8. Radio Propaganda Reports: [redacted] 50X1

a. Soviet slogans for the 46th anniversary of the October Revolution were analyzed in CD.236.

b. The seventh in the series on public appearances of Soviet leaders was issued as RS.66.

9. Analysis Wire Items: Two RPB analyses were carried on the FBIS Wire. One of these was a study of various Tokyo press versions of remarks

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by Chinese Communist Vice Premier Chen I for indications of acknowledgment of serious difficulties facing Chinese economic planners. The other reviewed initial communist reaction to the coup in South Vietnam in response to State Department queries. [redacted]

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10. Broadcasts to Africa: RPB serviced a number of requests from consumers in USIA and within the Agency reflecting special interest in Peking broadcasts dealing with Africa and in Peking and Cairo broadcasts beamed to Africa. [redacted]

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11. Government-Academic Cooperation: The Chief, Internal Affairs Section, RPB, represented the Agency at a meeting of the American Council of Learned Societies in New York, held to explore possibilities for improving cooperation between the Government and the academic community in Soviet studies. The discussions reflected the considerable reliance of university researchers on the FBIS unclassified White Book as an important source of current materials on Soviet affairs. [redacted]

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12. TV Still Picture Coverage: Consumers were pleased with the German Bureau's still picture coverage of the Moscow October Revolution Anniversary Parade taken from Intervision relays. It is anticipated that similar specific requirements for still picture coverage will be forthcoming. [redacted]

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13. References to CIA: FBIS has again been requested to give continuing special distribution to all filed material containing references to CIA personnel and activities. Field bureaus should therefore flag all pertinent items "Copy to Liaison." [redacted]

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14. Castro Texts: In an effort to reduce the excessive amount of time spent by Key West Bureau filling the gaps in East Coast Bureau's coverage of lengthy Castro speeches, a survey of the most important consumers was made to determine if excerpts, with an editor's note describing the less significant deleted passages, would suffice. The response was practically unanimous in rejecting the idea, with State Department analysts noting, for example, that even Castro's "idle digressions give clues to his thinking and state of mind." [redacted]

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15. Lateral Services: The biannual revision of the lateral services performed by all FBIS field bureaus and Headquarters has been sent to all bureaus. Requests for additional copies should be addressed to the Liaison and Requirements Staff. Field bureaus instituted the following services: The East Coast Bureau began filing the WHO epidemiological

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bulletins to CONFLEACTS Sasebo, Japan; the London Bureau is now filing its processed ATA items to the Austrian Bureau for forwarding to USIS in Vienna; and the Naval Commander in Chief, Alaska, has been added as a recipient of shipping and fishing briefs. []

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16. During October 88 percent of the Daily Report was devoted to broadcast material and 12 percent to press scrutiny. []

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17. RPB Reorganization: In order to better provide analysis responsive to the disarray in the world communist movement and the spread of communism in Latin America, the Radio Propaganda Branch is reorganizing its analysis staff to establish a new World Communism Section. Personnel in the new section are being drawn from the existing Foreign Affairs and Internal Affairs Sections. The analysis of Cuban developments and Cuban inroads in Latin America is included in the responsibilities of the new section. []

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18. Abstracts: In response to consumer comment that the term "economic" does not sufficiently identify the full range of material available on FBIS abstract cards and that many analysts therefore overlook them, it has been decided to add the title ECONOMIC-TECHNICAL-GEOGRAPHIC ABSTRACT at the top of the cards. Bureaus should begin typing in the new title immediately. When present supplies of preprinted mats are exhausted, new mats will have the title in the space which now carries the OFFICIAL USE ONLY designation. []

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19. RPB Report to be Discontinued: In view of a decision of Biographics Register to begin regular reporting of the activities of Soviet leaders, RPB expects to discontinue its report series on this subject before the end of the year. Requirements for field filing of items on Soviet leaders will not be affected by the transfer of this function. []

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20. Improved Distribution of Publications: There has been extensive coordination with the Printing Services Division to solve production and dissemination problems connected with FBIS publications. After considerable cross-checking of FBIS and PSD lists of subscribers for all publications, it is now felt that most discrepancies have been removed, and PSD is drawing up a new system on mailing list changes to avoid future errors. PSD has also agreed to set up verification procedures for making certain that envelopes are properly filled and mail bags securely tagged. []

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21. Hokkaido Bureau Relocation: In line with U.S. Army intentions to phase out its Chitose I post and return it to the Japanese, planning has been initiated for possible relocation of the Hokkaido Bureau in a new area called Chitose III. Initial steps include consumer surveys in Washington and the field to confirm the value of Hokkaido Bureau material, reception tests at the proposed operations site in Chitose III, and coordination of housing plans with the U.S. Army. [REDACTED]

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22. Construction Projects: A small auxiliary building was constructed at the Key West Bureau to house the emergency power generator. A contractor in Kaduna has begun preliminary work for the construction of housing for African Bureau native personnel. [REDACTED]

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FIELD OPERATIONS AND ENGINEERING

23. Cruising Reports for London Bureau: Cruising monitors and other personnel who transmit information to BIS are asked to include London Bureau as an addressee on all cruising messages pertaining to voice transmissions except those which are in direct answer to FOS or BIS requests. Such cruising messages will be passed to BBC at the discretion of London Bureau. There will be no change in the present method of reporting press cruising information to BBC, nor will there be any change in Mediterranean Bureau procedures for reporting cruising information to BBC. [REDACTED]

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24. Moscow and Peking Changes: All Bureaus did an excellent job in reporting the fall changes in Moscow and Peking broadcasting services. The seven-day check before submission of frequency information provided BIS with accurate and complete information [REDACTED]

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25. Transportable Monitoring Unit: Work on the Transportable Monitoring Unit was completed at the East Coast Bureau at the end of October and full operational monitoring and telecommunications tests were conducted during the second week of November. The transportable unit, a 30-foot trailer containing three monitoring positions and two-way telecommunications equipment with its own Diesel power generator and prime mover, provides a fully self-contained monitoring capability. [REDACTED]

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26. Automatic Broadcast Tuning: Technical Materiel Corporation DDR-5 radio receivers capable of being preprogrammed for automatic tuning were delivered to the East and West Coast Bureaus. The receivers will, when operated in conjunction with a programming head to be acquired in the future, be activated by prepunched tape to tune in broadcasts over a 24-hour period. Such receivers would be extremely valuable for covering broadcasts when personnel are off duty and would be especially useful at small field bureaus. [REDACTED]

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27. Improved Communications: The London Bureau has now switched all its send circuits to new M-28 teletype equipment, and the restoration priority on its LWA circuit has been raised from 4A to 2D. With possible improvement of Tokyo's TWB circuit through the use of a coaxial cable for the Hawaii-Washington link still several months away, steps have been initiated to raise the restoration priority of that circuit to 2D also. [redacted]

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ADMINISTRATION

28. New DAD/O: [redacted]

[redacted] has been designated Deputy Assistant Director for Operations.

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29. Official Visits: Mr. Roger G. Seely, [redacted] and [redacted] departed for visits to the Key West and Panama Bureaus. [redacted] Chief of RPB, visited the Mediterranean, Austrian, German, and London Bureaus. [redacted] Chief, L&R Staff, departed for visits to the West Coast, Far East, and Saigon Bureaus and to various U.S. overseas components receiving FBIS material.

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30. Peace Corps Employment Restrictions: It should be brought to the attention of all classified personnel that employment with the Agency bars any future employment with the Peace Corps and vice versa. This restriction is applicable to employee dependents who take temporary work with the Agency during the summer months. [redacted]

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31. Regulatory Issuances: The following regulatory issuances were disseminated: [redacted]

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EDITORIAL

1. Editorial Corrections: Editorial corrections which do not include brief descriptions of the content of the item to be corrected are still being received much too frequently. Corrections which identify items only by bureau date-time group and broadcast sourceline cause an inordinate amount of work in locating the specific item.

2. Casual Press Scrutiny: Recently editorial notes based on "casual" press scrutiny have appeared in broadcast items filed to Washington. Material from newspapers available in the field should not be filed by bureaus other than the four with regular press scrutiny commitments--the Tokyo, Saigon, German, and Austrian Bureaus--except when it is highly significant or extremely pertinent to interpretation of important monitored items. When reporting is justified on these grounds, the information should be noted in separate short FYI's with references to monitored items as appropriate.

3. Mentions of Congressmen: With an election year coming up, mentions of Congressmen will undoubtedly increase considerably. Bureaus are again reminded that all filed material containing references to Congressmen should be flagged "copy to liaison."

4. Additional Press Scrutiny: The Austrian Bureau instituted regular scrutiny of the Albanian press in November. Initially this scrutiny will cover only Zeri I Popullit.

ADMINISTRATION

1. Headquarters TDY: Austrian Bureau Editor [] re-oriented at Headquarters prior to returning to Vienna for a second tour of duty. West Coast Bureau Monitor [] was oriented in preparation for replacing [] Hokkaido Bureau Operations Officer, in December.

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2. BBC Official Retiring: [] the BBC Monitoring Service's chief engineer, is retiring because of ill health. No successor has been named.

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3. New Employee

Assignment

[]

Analyst, Bloc Foreign Affairs Sec., RPB

STAT

3. Reassignments

From

To

[]

Editor
Editorial BranchEditor
Mediterranean Bur.

STAT

Sr. Editor
West Coast BureauSr. Editor, USSR/EE Sec
Editorial Branch

SUBJECT: Letter of Information

Reassignment

From

To

STAT

Teletypist
Editorial Branch

Teletypist
East Coast Bur.

Deputy Chief
Editorial Branch

Special Asst. to
Chief, FBIS

Editor
Mediterranean Bur.

Editor, USSR/EE Sec.
Editorial Branch

Radio Operator
West Coast Bureau

Radio Operator
East Coast Bur.

Watch Officer
East Coast Bureau

Watch Officer
West Coast Bur.

Special Asst. to
Chief, FBIS

Chief
East Coast Bur.

Watch Officer
Mediterranean Bur.

Watch Officer
Okinawa Bureau

Teletypist
East Coast Bur.

Adm. Assistant
Administrative Staff

5. Resignations

From

STAT

Liaison Officer, Liaison & Requirements
Staff

Typist, Editorial Branch

STAT